



## **FY 2000 Early Input Opportunity Summary**

### **December 15, 1999**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Several meetings have been held throughout the MAG Region during the FY 2000 Early Phase Input Opportunity. These meetings were held to obtain input to consider in updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. A survey was also developed and distributed throughout the region (self-selected respondents) to obtain additional input on transportation issues and funding priorities. Details of the events and the input received can be found in the Enhanced Early Phase Input Opportunity Report. The input received has been summarized in several categories below. This input summary was provided to elected officials of all the cities and towns in the Maricopa Region to help them make decisions in shaping our region's transportation future.

#### **Air Quality**

- ◆ Pave dirt roads to reduce PM-10.
- ◆ Must not harm air quality with freeway acceleration plans.
- ◆ Grand Avenue has two monitors; widening could negatively affect.
- ◆ Could hinder Phoenix being desirable for tourists.
- ◆ Use intersection improvements (turn lanes) to reduce congestion.

#### **Alternatively Fueled Vehicles**

- ◆ Need more locations and skilled mechanics for vehicle repair for alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) or for vehicles converted from gasoline or diesel to AFV.
- ◆ Need information on potential funding sources for AFVs.
- ◆ More fueling sites are needed.
- ◆ Great potential to increase number of off-road vehicles (forklifts, tractors, etc.).
- ◆ Need to understand general costs and benefits associated with using AFVs.

- ◆ Need to create awareness of AFVs and increase community acceptance. Coordinated outreach efforts may be appropriate.

#### **Aviation**

- ◆ Numerous comments were obtained at the Aviation Stakeholders meeting on September 14, 1999 as a component of the Regional Aviation Systems Plan Update. Refer to Appendix D in the FY 2000 Enhanced Early Phase Public Input Opportunity Report for Details.

#### **Bicycle and Pedestrian**

- ◆ Right turns on red lights are dangerous for pedestrians.
- ◆ A bike tunnel is needed at the Grand Canal and I-17.
- ◆ Bicycling has great potential for short, local trips. All neighborhoods should provide bicycle facilities to make these trips possible.
- ◆ Employers should be encouraged to provide shower and secure parking facilities to encourage bicycling.
- ◆ A model ordinance should be adopted by all the cities to address recommended showers, secure parking, etc., and consistent design standards.
- ◆ All new roads should have a striped bike lane. All reconstructed roads should have a bike lane added when reconstructed. These standards should be uniform for all cities and towns.
- ◆ Connection of bike lanes across jurisdictional boundaries is a major issue that should be addressed.
- ◆ More education is needed to prevent bicycling deaths.
- ◆ Bicycling can also have a role in meeting Welfare to Work transportation needs.
- ◆ Sensors at intersections need to be bike sensitive.



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#### **Freeways**

- ◆ Complete Loop 101 spur from I-10 south to Buckeye Road.
- ◆ Need HOV lanes along I-10 from 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue west to Litchfield Road or Cotton Lane.
- ◆ Continue traffic interchange improvement program.
- ◆ Shoulder widening and construction needed along SR-87 to complete four-lane divided highway.
- ◆ Need Design Concept Report along I-10 from Baseline to 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ◆ Need Interim improvements: 2 lane exit Westbound I-10 to Northbound SR-143.
- ◆ Need to reconstruct traffic interchanges: I-10 at Riggs and US 60 at Mill Avenue.
- ◆ New traffic interchange at US 60 and Lindsay needed.
- ◆ Consider additional HOV lanes on corridors not currently included.
- ◆ Loop 303 needs to be constructed to allow crossing over the Agua Fria River.
- ◆ I-17 is a major barrier for bicyclists. New freeways should not be barriers to bicyclists.
- ◆ State Route 85 should be a truck route to limit traffic in the Sun City area.

#### **Human Services**

- ◆ Needs higher priority in receiving funding.
- ◆ Need non-automobile alternatives for elderly.
- ◆ Need transportation for welfare-to-work clients. Consider partnering with school bus operators.
- ◆ Homebound persons need transportation options to get out of their homes for appointments and leisure activities.
- ◆ Transporting elderly persons is a huge issue; door to door service is needed.

#### **Intelligent Transportation Systems**

- ◆ Monitor system performance to assess effectiveness of money spent.

- ◆ Need common database to manage issues regionally.
- ◆ Need service patrols along freeways to remove accidents and break-downs.
- ◆ Regional traffic signal synchronization needs higher priority.
- ◆ The region should seek and implement ITS solutions that address all transportation modes, including transit, pedestrians and bicycles.

#### **Regional Planning**

- ◆ Funding needed to implement Long Range Transportation Plan.
- ◆ Need to better coordinate with Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force.
- ◆ Show general public how plans will be implemented.
- ◆ Regional planning is better for transportation rather than a "city by city" basis.
- ◆ Need more analysis of alternative modes in transportation planning.

#### **Safety**

- ◆ Transportation workers in congested areas an issue.
- ◆ Need emergency phones along roadways.
- ◆ Work zone safety is a major issue as freeway construction schedule advances.

#### **Telecommuting/Carpooling**

- ◆ Need to expand number of teleconferencing sites, and link sites together.
- ◆ Parking should not be available for government employees.
- ◆ Big companies need to provide van service for employees to facilitate carpooling.
- ◆ Carpooling and vanpool programs should be encouraged to limit congestion during peak travel times.



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### Transit

- ◆ Need a dedicated, long-term funding source for public transportation.
- ◆ Expand bus fleet and service frequency to meet customer needs, including elderly, disabled, entry level jobs, alternative shift employees.
- ◆ Identify additional high-use corridors.
- ◆ Consider commuter or light rail in the southwest valley.
- ◆ Light rail needs to provide airport access.
- ◆ Market existing services better.
- ◆ More is needed for tourists and visitors.
- ◆ Need more park and rides; government should provide land.
- ◆ Design a bus system for the entire region based upon actual traffic data.
- ◆ A regional seamless system is needed for Dial-a-Ride.
- ◆ Heavy rail should be considered.
- ◆ RPTA needs public local match for light rail projects.
- ◆ Rail should be considered in freeway right-of-way.
- ◆ A regional transit agency is needed to implement the transit system.
- ◆ More transit service is needed, including rail, to benefit air quality.
- ◆ Transit transfers are limited by the Grand Avenue flyovers.
- ◆ Bus service is needed west of 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- ◆ People on probation are unable to attend their court-ordered appointments without adequate transit service, because many aren't allowed to drive. Also, access to weekend appointments is needed.
- ◆ Larger dial-a-ride vans are needed in Sun City area.

- ◆ Three hour waiting time for dial-a-ride service is completely unreasonable.
- ◆ Wheelchair accessible vans are needed for transporting dial-a-ride users.
- ◆ More transit needed in Northwest Valley to meet transportation needs of rapidly growing area.
- ◆ Any light rail needs to have bicyclist access to the stations, secure parking facilities at stations, and the potential to carry bikes on rail cars.
- ◆ Placement of light rail infrastructure needs to minimize negative impact on bicyclists.

### Other

- ◆ ADOT workers need more competitive salaries to promptly deliver products.
- ◆ Educational campaign to address work zone safety is needed.
- ◆ Use electric carts for neighborhood transportation.
- ◆ The public involvement process needs be expanded.
- ◆ Voters should be given the opportunity to vote on a comprehensive regional system.
- ◆ When planning new developments, developers should provide right-of-way dedications for planned transportation.



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### TRANSPORTATION SURVEY (self-selected)

A total of 289 responses to the survey received through December 15, 1999 have been included in this summary. Additional survey responses received will be included in future summaries.

#### Top Three Issues of Extreme Concern:

- ◆ Traffic Congestion (48.6%)
- ◆ Air Quality (48.3%)
- ◆ Crime (43.1%)

#### Top Three Issues of Very Concerned:

- ◆ Transportation Safety and Air Quality (33.0% each)
- ◆ Public Education and Crime (30.9% each)
- ◆ Adequacy of Mass Transit (29.9% each)

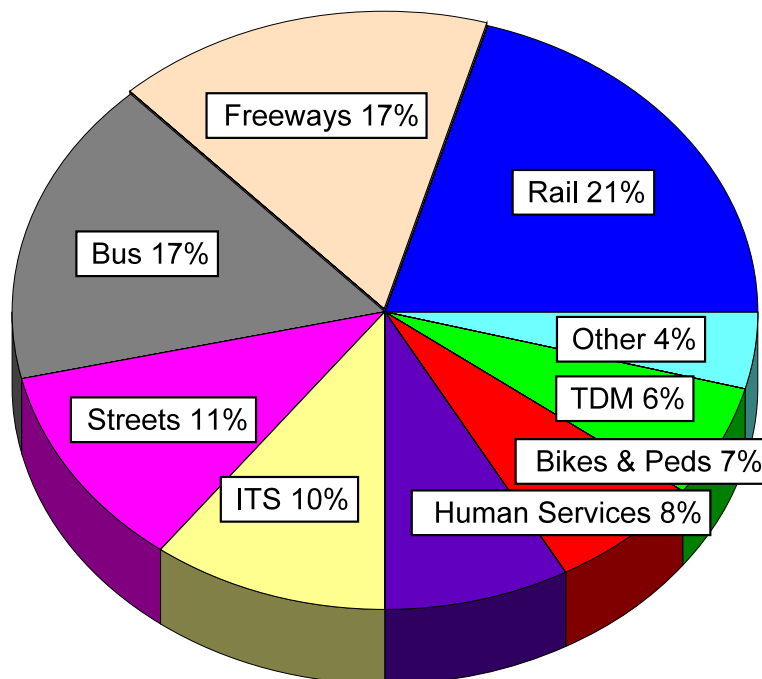
#### Spend Much More on These Traffic Congestion Reducing Measures (Top Three):

- ◆ Establishing a Rail System (44.4%)
- ◆ Expanding and Improving Bus Service (41.0%)
- ◆ Synchronize Traffic Signals throughout the Valley (31.9%)

#### Spend Much Less on These Traffic Congestion Reducing Measures (Top Three):

- ◆ Construct New Freeways (10.8%)
- ◆ Add Lanes to Existing Streets (10.4%)
- ◆ Establishing a Rail System (10.1%)

### Divide Money Among Modes Like This:



The **most important transportation problem** is the lack of public transportation (bus, rail, dial-a-ride). Other significant problems include too much traffic on roads and freeways or congestion, the need for additional freeways or constructing freeways faster, and air quality/air pollution.